

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6452
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
CORNEA TRANSPLANTATION
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of patients waiting for cornea transplantation in the country;
- (b) the number of patients cured through eye donation under National Blindness Control Programme during each of the last three years; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to motivate people to donate eyes?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): No such data is maintained at central level.

(b): During last three years 21608 people have been benefited through transplantation of corneas. Year-wise details is as under:

Year	Number of Corneal Transplantation
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2000	6051
2001	7821
2002	7736#

provisional

(c): To promote eye donation in the country, the following measures are being taken:-

- i. Organising National Fortnight on Eye Donation from 25th August to 7th September every year.
- ii. Enhance mass awareness through messages on television, radio, press and printed material.
- iii. Training hospital staff on GRIEF COUNSELING for motivating relatives of terminally ill patients for donating the eyes.
- iv. Provide financial assistance to eye banks in government and voluntary sector.
- v. Organise training of eye surgeons in the corneal transplantation to restore vision of corneal blind persons.
- vi. Launching hospital cornea retrieval programme with the support of major hospitals, medical colleges in government and non-government sector, Army, ESI, Railway hospitals of the country.
- vii. To shift the focus from `Pledging of Eyes` to actual collection of Eyes.